

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A recording and reproducing apparatus having a recording medium and cartridge memory inside a cartridge and making a copy of control information memorized in said cartridge memory recorded, in which control information memorized in the cartridge memory is compared with one recorded in the recording medium, thereby a recording or reproducing operation of the apparatus is selected based on the compared result. Moreover in the apparatus, a password is memorized in the cartridge memory in advance and an authentication is made with the password being input through an external input means, thereby its recording or reproducing operation is selected based on the authenticated result.